

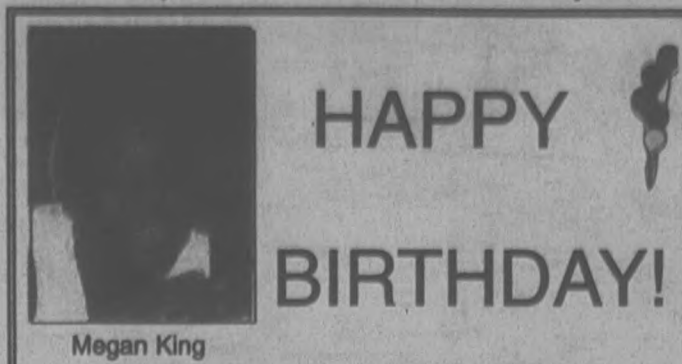
Local school board member attends statewide training session

School board members and superintendents from around the state attended a two-day training seminar recently to address how to engage their respective communities.

Annette Griswold, a member of the Coffee County Board of

Education, joined almost 250 school board members and superintendents for the Alabama Association of School Boards' conference Oct. 23-24 in Birmingham.

Griswold and other conference participants earned credit for attending the conference in an effort to reach one of the Academy's four achievement levels.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

End of Season CATFISH SALE
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THE ELBA CLIPPER • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005



RED RIBBON WEEK...New Brockton Elementary School students joined others across the nation last week in celebrating Red Ribbon Week. Several events were held throughout the week including Friday's "Walk Out on Drugs" in which students met in the front lawn to display drug-free cheers. Afterwards, the students were joined by teachers and local dignitaries in making a lap around the front drive of the school. Above, SGA officers begin the "walk-out" lap. They are holding a pledge sheet signed by students indicating desire for a drug-free life. The officers are followed by dignitaries including the school's principal, town council representatives and local law enforcement officers.

Important Information from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

Attention Alabamians with Medicare:

If you or someone you love currently has Medicare coverage, please take a moment to read the information below.

With the new Medicare Drug Plans beginning January 1, 2006, you are going to read and hear a lot about the different drug plans that will be offered over the coming months. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know that **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama will not be offering a separate Medicare Drug Plan.**

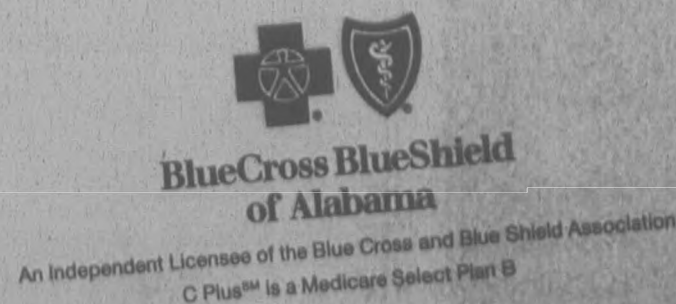
If you currently have **C PlusSM** with PMD, you can keep it. If you want to buy Medicare Drug coverage, you can choose from any one of the sixteen different companies offering plans in Alabama. You can enroll from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. You will need to decide which plan best fits your needs. More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available through the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook from Medicare or from the following:

- Visit www.medicare.gov for personalized help
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you are interested in **C PlusSM** with PMD and would like to enroll, please call 1-800-315-7900. Carefully review and compare the different Medicare Drug Plans before you decide which plan is best for you.

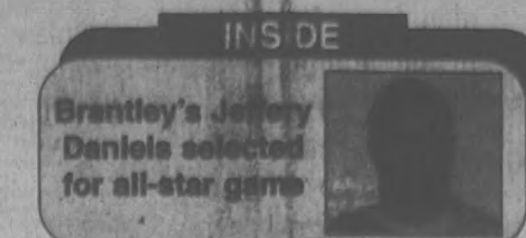
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 109, Number 22

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, November 10, 2005

1 Section, 14 Pages

During New Brockton Town Council meeting

Christmas pageant committee makes donation to N.B. High School library

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council held a routine, but upbeat monthly meeting Monday evening, Nov. 7, as many of the reports offered positive news.

Mayor Charles Cole said the

downtown revitalization committee met recently and one of the main topics of discussion was getting a grocery store back in downtown New Brockton. He said many ideas and opinions were offered, and the consensus of the group was that New Brockton must have a grocery

store. Cole said the group also looked at the recent announcement for construction of a new subdivision named Mayberry USA. Cole said he is excited about the possibilities Mayberry USA will bring to the community, he hopes the people of New Brockton will help "sell it" to those looking to locate to New Brockton and Coffee County.

Cole said people looking to move to the area will be wanting to know what New Brockton has to offer.

"We have good schools, good churches and good folks," he said.

Town clerk Annette Williams said she and council member Jeffery White recently attended an economic summit where state officials discussed current economic development for the State of Alabama as well as things planned down the road.

Williams said the governor also attended this meeting, and he really stressed the importance of education in regards to Alabama's future growth.

"You can see Alabama is gearing up," Williams said. "I think New Brockton should be right there with them."

Mayor Cole announced the town has received a \$138,000 demolition grant in which he referred to as a "plus for New Brockton." The mayor said the grant will allow for the demolition of abandoned homes and clean up of the property.

"This is another grant we're

Please See TOWN, Page 2

Health departments administering influenza vaccine

County health departments in Alabama began administering influenza vaccine Tuesday, Nov. 1, to anyone wishing to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill from flu regardless of risk status.

The shots will be given through the end of influenza season while supplies last.

"Influenza vaccine is the best way to prevent infection from the flu virus and the complications associated with it," said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. "Persons must be

re-vaccinated each year because the flu viruses change every year. Because of staggered shipping methods used by the manufacturer, health department clinics have run out of vaccine numerous times. We anticipate a total of 16,870 doses to be delivered to county health clinics statewide this week. Late in November we anticipate receiving additional flu vaccine which will probably be administered in clinics in December. The month of December is not too late to be vaccinated to be protected during the peak months of influenza."

Immunization rates for influenza remain low, and illness and death from the disease remain high.

Most people who die from influenza are 65 years old and older. Children younger than 2 are as likely to be hospitalized as those age 65 and above.

It takes about two weeks after getting the flu shot for the vaccine to offer maximum protection.

The components of the vaccine for the 2005-06 influenza year include A/New Caledonia (H1N1), A/California (H3N2) and B/Shanghai antigens.

Contact a health care provider or county health department for more information. An updated schedule of influenza clinics to be held in county health departments can be found on the Alabama Department of Public Health Web site at www.adph.org/immunization, or by calling your county health department.



CELEBRATING RETIRED TEACHERS' DAY...Elba Mayor James Grimes made it official Monday afternoon of this week when he signed a resolution proclaiming Tuesday, Nov. 15, as Retired Teachers' Day. Mayor Grimes and the Elba City Council encourage all residents to join them in paying tribute to all retired educators on that day. In signing the resolution, Grimes said retired educators throughout Alabama are deserving of the highest praise and recognition the state can bestow for devotion to their profession. Retired Teachers' Day is celebrated in conjunction with American Education Week (Nov. 13-19, 2005). The day was established demonstrating honor and appreciation to retired educators who continue to contribute to the community with their services. Joining Mayor Grimes for the signing of the resolution were (from left) Judy Killingsworth, president, and Sylvia Padgett, treasurer, of the Coffee County Retired Educators' Association.



TOLEDO MOLDING AND DIE INC. employees gave \$23,678 to the American Red Cross for the benefit of Hurricane Katrina victims. While the donations were from employees at all six Toledo plants in the United States, company President Don Harbaugh was in Elba on Monday of this week to give the good news to representatives of the Coffee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Harbaugh personally matched the donations of the employees. Red Cross Chapter Board Chairman Freddy Grase accepted the donation. On hand with him were board members Eddie Vaughan and Ben Terrell. The company employees about 1,000 in all the plants. Approximately 100 currently work in the relatively new Elba plant. Pictured above in the working part of the plant immediately after the presentation are Terrell, Grase, Harbaugh, plant manager Keith Regle, Representative Terry Spicer and Vaughan. Also present were Elba Mayor James Grimes and Chamber of Commerce director Kaye Whitworth.

County BOE looks at new option for substitute teachers

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its annual public meeting Thursday evening, Nov. 3, and during the meeting re-elected board member Charles Walker as chairman and board member Danny Jernigan as vice-chairman for Fiscal Year 2006.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram asked board members for permission to allow her to negotiate a contract with Kelly Educational Services to provide substitute teachers for the school system.

Ingram said she believes an association, with Kelly Educational Services would provide a win-win situation for the county's school system. One big positive the superintendent said she can foresee is better trained substitutes for the school system. Ingram said the substitutes would be paid through

Kelly Educational Services which would keep unemployment from being filed against the school system. Also, she said using Kelly Educational Services would save faculty time in that they would no longer have to spend valuable time searching for a substitute.

Ingram said a number of school systems are showing interest in using Kelly Educational Services for substitutes.

Board member Danny Jernigan expressed a concern that he did not want the school principals to loose control of who is in the classrooms. Ingram assured him they would not. She said the principals would have the authority to keep certain substitutes from coming to the schools again if one proves to be ineffective.

Board members gave their approval for Ingram to proceed with negotiating a contract with

Kelly Educational Services. Ingram noted the contract would be developed on a yearly basis with services able to begin at any time. She said the contract would cover all substitute employees except bus drivers and nurses.

Dr. Ingram told board members the school system will again this year receive at-risk funding allocated by the state. She said the Coffee County School System will receive \$75,000 in which 20 percent of those funds are to go to local organizations supported by the school system.

Ingram suggested the school system continue to support the AIM project and Coffee County Family Services Center. She said the 20 percent or \$14,966 would be distributed with the AIM project receiving \$5,000 and Coffee County Family

Please See BOE, Page 2

Jimmy Holley seeks reelection to Alabama Senate

Senator Jimmy Holley recently announced he will seek reelection to the Alabama Senate.

Holley is completing his second term in the Senate representing District 31, which includes Coffee, Covington, Dale and Houston Counties. Holley has also served five terms in the House of Representatives.

"To represent District 31 in the state senate is a great honor, and to be encouraged by so many friends to seek re-election is truly humbling," said Holley. "I am running for re-election so

I can continue serving Alabama in order to continue making progress in education, recruiting new jobs and working to keep our neighborhoods and schools safe. We all live in a great community and I am working every day to keep it that way."

"I am proud of the accomplishments our schools have made in providing a quality education for our

students. I will continue to listen to and work with parents as I seek to improve their children's learning environments and to prioritize education dollars so they reach the classroom. This will include adequate pay for teachers and support personnel as well as providing classroom resources so that teachers can do their jobs."

"I will continue to work hard with others in Southeast Alabama to recruit industry and create new jobs. Adding more highly skilled private sector jobs, in addition to our well-trained and educated state employee workforce, is good for Southeast Alabama and is good for businesses located in this area."

"Prosperity for our families and their safety depends upon improvements being made in our road system. Highway 84 is being expanded to four lanes

and I will continue to promote the much needed widening of Highways 167, 331, and 55 to four lanes as well. Adequate transportation, such as improving 231 and building the I-10 connector, is integral to job growth. Better roads provide a measure of safety for our families' needs and for our school buses. I recognize that the basic principle of having a good safe road system is a necessity for the well-being of our families and business."

"For the past several years I have promoted, in cooperation with others, the building of community senior citizen centers throughout District 31 as well as helping fund and secure slots for meals for the seniors and meals on wheels for those who are homebound. Maintenance of these senior center and the services they provide to our seniors will continue to be in the forefront of my efforts."

"I want to thank my family and the great people of the Wiregrass who have allowed me to represent our area in the state senate," said Holley. "My commitment to the people of my district is that I will continue working to improve the quality of life for all of us who are lucky enough to call the Wiregrass home."

Area Happenings

THE NEW BROCKTON FOOTBALL TEAM enters the second round of playoffs this week with the Birmingham Bulldogs hosting Sweet Water. Kickoff for the game is set for 7 p.m.

IN HONOR OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY VETERANS, the City of Enterprise is hosting a Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9, that will take place at the Wall of Freedom Monument which is located in the Enterprise Recreational Complex on Hwy. 167 North. The public is invited to attend.

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICE will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. There will be standby crews for any emergency with water, electric, gas or sewer. To report an emergency, call the Elba Police Department at 897-2331.

THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON OFFICE will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. For any emergency, call the New Brockton Police Department at 898-5579.

SPORTS

Views from....

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

I made the long trip down to Southern Choctaw last week with my daughters and after a seven-hour round trip ride in a car will have to admit the only thing worse than a back seat driver may be a Dad that keeps one eye on the speedometer and the other eye on the white line on the side of the road. I did my best to stay quiet and let our older daughter handle the driving, and while I did fine and got us there and back with no problems, at times I just had to offer some advice that she neither needed nor appreciated. Maybe next time I should just sit in the back seat and take a nap!

TIGERS MAKE EARLY EXIT FROM 2A PLAYOFFS

The Elba Tigers saw a disappointing season come to a disappointing end Friday night when they were ousted from the state playoffs after a 33-12 loss to top-ranked Southern Choctaw. The Elba offense came out conservative in the opening half against the Indians and managed only one first down and 57 yards in total offense as the Tigers went in at the half trailing 19-0. The offense did open things up in the second half and had several chances to get right back in the game, but two lost fumbles and a pass interception put an end to three possessions on the Southern Choctaw side of midfield, and at the final horn the Tigers had once again come up short against an opponent it could have defeated. A major part of the Tigers problems last week, and all season long, was their inability to run the football. Elba ran the ball 23 times for only 61 yards in last week's playoff loss, and once the Indians knew Elba couldn't run the ball they simply sent everyone on a mad rush for the quarterback. Over on defense the Tigers played hard for all four quarters, and despite allowing five touchdowns and over 400 yards in total offense, they probably passed more hard hits than they had all season combined. Senior linebacker Chase Boutwell had a big game with 15 solo tackles, and led the defensive unit to a solid showing. It is sometimes hard to find positives in a loss, but last week there were many positive things to be seen and after the game I was proud of the effort given by the players.

BULLDOGS AND REBELS HAVE MIXED RESULTS

The Brantley Bulldogs and Zion Chapel Rebels both hit the field last week in the opening round of the Class 1A playoffs and had mixed results as the Bulldogs advanced with an easy win and the Rebels made an early exit after watching a late rally fall short. Here's a quick look back....

*** **BRANTLEY (10-1)** - The Bulldogs scored early and often to roll to an easy 60-6 win over U.I. Blacksher. The "Dogs took command from the start as they opened up a 47-0 halftime advantage and then let everyone dressed in green hit the field in the second half as they mopped up the big playoff victory. Brantley wanted to make a statement to the rest of the teams in the 1A playoffs and did just that with the big win.

*** **ZION CHAPEL (6-5)** - The Rebels fell behind big and saw a laterally fall just short Friday night in a wild 39-31 loss to Millry. The Rebels trailed 32-7 early in the third quarter and appeared headed for a big loss, but came to life and twice came within one score of catching the Wildcats late in the contest. While there is no doubt there is no such thing as a moral victory up at Zion Chapel, the Rebels proved again Friday night they are back among the top teams in the 1A ranks and the best is yet to come.

OPENING ROUND FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT

The opening round of the state high school football playoffs are always filled with hyped wins and mild upsets, and that was the case again last week as the 2005 playoffs kicked off all across the state. Here's a look back at the week that was....

*** **CLASS 1A** - Defending state champion Sweet Water stayed alive with a hard fought 35-27 win over Maplesville and top-ranked American Christian continued to roll up the points with a 56-16 romp past Nottawigamie, while closer to home Florida overcame a slow start to defeat Marengo 38-3 and Ardon saw its season end with a 20-0 setback to the Whippets of Frisco City.

*** **CLASS 2A** - Defending state champion Leroy came out swinging and easily disposed of Houston County 42-8, while Clay County also made it known it was back hunting a title as it clobbered Sand Rock 48-0. Closer to home, Laverne outscored Vincent 37-20 to keep its title hopes alive and Houston Academy easily got past Excel 38-0, while Highland Home saw its season end with a 25-20 upset loss to Calera.

*** **CLASS 3A** - Defending state champion Oneonta began defense of it's crown with a 35-14 win over West Blocton, while Pike County and T.R. Miller let everyone know they have their sights set on a trip to the Super Six as the Bulldogs trounced Alabama Christian 62-0 and the Tigers rolled past Holville 56-13. Straughn saw its season end in a 28-21 setback to Montgomery

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Academy and Slocumb also saw its season end as the Red Taps fell to LaFayette 30-22.

*** **CLASS 4A** - Defending state champion Demopolis remained undefeated with a big 48-7 win over Handley, while UMS-Wright pounded Ashford 48-7 and Geneva slipped past Andalusia, in overtime, 24-17 to highlight the opening week action. In other games of note Rehobeth continued its Cinderella season with a 21-20 win over Jackson, and Thomasville disposed of long time 4A power Trinity 28-7.

*** **CLASS 5A** - Defending state champion Homewood made it look easy with a 31-7 win over Paul Bryant, while Eufula almost let its undefeated season slip away and needed overtime to slip past Citronelle 38-31. Carroll, of Ozark, saw its first season under Coach Ronnie Cottrell come to an unexpected end with an upset loss to St. Pauls 38-27, and at the other end of the state Fairfield lit up the scoreboard in a 61-20 win over Gadsden.

*** **CLASS 6A** - Defending state champion Hoover opened the post-season with a big 56-14 win over Hillcrest, while top-ranked Prattville pounded a very good Auburn team 31-10 and undefeated Davidson rolled past Satsuma 49-14. Closer to home, Enterprise had an easy time with lowly Robert E. Lee 34-15, Opelika flexed its muscles in a 51-6 win over Selma and Carver made a statement in a big 28-0 win over Central, of Phenix City.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

*** There was plenty of college football action to keep up with last weekend both on and off the TV and it was a good week for state fans as Alabama, Auburn and Troy all posted wins. The Crimson Tide let its defense do the talking once again in a 17-0 win over cellar dweller Mississippi State, while Auburn lit up the scoreboard in the second half to down Kentucky 49-27 and Troy also rallied in the second half to down Florida Atlantic 28-14. All the wins were expected and there was little for the fans to get excited about. However, all that will change soon as both the Tide and Tigers fight for a division title the next two weeks.

*** The folks up at Brantley borrowed \$100,000 four years ago to rework its football stadium and last week burned the turf on the loan after paying it off. The money went toward building concrete bleachers on the home side of the stadium, improving the turf on the field and making improvements to the weight room and other much needed items. To borrow that kind of money and pay it off in just four years says a lot about the folks up in Brantley and their dedication to their school and their athletic program.

*** High School basketball is just around the corner and in just a few weeks many fans will have to make a choice on Friday nights if they want to follow their team or head out to a playoff game in football. Most football fans will find the choice an easy one to make, while ones with children playing or cheering will most likely head to the gym and then catch the football highlights on the tube. Yep, it is a busy time of the year.

Jerry Hudson races to Roadrunner win at SAS

By Mark Chisum

The 2005 racing season got off to a fast start for Phillip Anderson at South Alabama Speedway. There were three wins in the first couple of months of the season, including the season opening 50-lapper on Rattler Weekend. But then Anderson took some time off. He returned in September, and quickly re-established himself as a frontrunner. In his third race back, after two runner-up finishes, Anderson pulled into Victory Lane after the 25 lap Vintage Feature.

Anderson started seventh Saturday night, but quickly moved into second behind early leader Jason Windham. When Windham began to have problems and retired to the pits for the evening, Anderson took over the front spot and never looked back. Duane Bates was able to keep Anderson in his sights, but Anderson was too quick on this night and maintained a four car advantage. Teddy Sasser was able to work his way past Bates with five laps to go, but couldn't run Anderson down.

In the Super Stock Feature, David Ashley and Greg Rabren arced side by side for several laps to open the race. Ashley had the inside and Rabren finally gave way on lap seven. Once clear of Rabren, Ashley pulled away from the pack. Greg Adams moved past Rabren on lap 12, but couldn't overcome Ashley's advantage.

Kevin Peel got under Phillip Merryman on lap six and went on to win the Modified Feature. Merryman was able to stay close to Peel, but Peel maintained a comfortable lead throughout. Bret Hanson finished third with Mike Daniels fourth and Randy Herrick fifth.

Sam Smith had an easy time in the Street Stock Feature. Smith moved under Jason Fowler on the second lap and cruised home with the win. Smith built a half lap lead over second place finisher Gary Morse. Morse was occupied with Danny Cooper who had several runs on Morse but was unable to make the pass. On the final lap, the two got together in turn four, but Morse was able to get straight and out ran Cooper to the line. Cooper failed to go to post race inspection and was disqualified. Cooper's "dq" moved Fowler and Cotton up in the final standings.

In the Roadrunner Feature, Jerry Hudson showed up with a

new car and was fast out of the box. Hudson started eighth but, using the high groove, moved into third by lap three. On the restart, Hudson got past LabDum Stokes for second. One lap later, he moved past leader Tim Peters. He cruised home from there. Kim Bishop came from the eleventh starting spot to finish second.

Lee Phillips passed early leader Ben Baxley on the fourth circuit and went on to win. Phillips and Max Nelson were battling behind Baxley for second when the leader slid up the track going into turn one. Both got past Baxley and continued their battle. Phillips was able to hold Nelson off to take the win.

Jerry Peacock led flag to flag to win the Mini Sportman Feature. Dwayne Maloy followed Peacock all race to finish second. Herndon Buie came from the tenth starting spot to finish third.

For more information, contact the track at (334) 565-3539, or visit the track's web site at www.southalabamiaspeedway.com/

Results

Super Stock

1. David Ashley
2. Greg Adams
3. Greg Rabren

Vintage

1. Phillip Anderson
2. Teddy Sasser
3. Duane Bates

Modified

1. Kevin Peel
2. Phillip Merryman
3. Bret Hanson

Street Stock

1. Sam Smith
2. Gary Morse
3. Jason Fowler

Roadrunner

1. Jerry Hudson
2. Kim Bishop
3. Tim Peters

Coyote

1. Lee Phillips
2. Max Nelson
3. Ben Baxley

Mini Sportman

1. Jeremy Peacock
2. Dwayne Maloy
3. Herndon Buie

*** and, in closing... I want to say a big "Thank You" to all the Elba Tiger and Elba Marching Tiger fans that made the long trip last week down to Southern Choctaw in the opening round of the playoffs. I was concerned the long trip and the high price of gas would lead to a small crowd, but the Elba fans came out big and their support of the Elba youngsters was great to see!

POLISH PROGNOSTICATOR PICKS PREP PLAYOFFS

Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator stopped by the office over the week-end and stated that even though two of the three area teams were eliminated in opening round action, the weeks to come would be filled with exciting high school football action and vowed to watch a game each of the next four weeks. The local guest expert hit on 23 of 26 picks last week to move his yearly totals to 269-48, and before leaving insisted his best was still yet to come. Here goes....

BRANTLEY VS. SWEET WATER

The Bulldogs from up across the river don't like it when strays come wandering into town and this week a batch of birds took deep in the woods will make the trip up the road looking to evict the Bulldogs from their own pen. While this batch of strays has been known to cause trouble, the guess here is that the hometown 'Dogs will protect their turf and pull off the first big upset of this year's post-season party.

BRANTLEY 36 SWEET WATER 34

OTHER PICKS:

Loachapoka 29 Millry 27
American Christian 48 Florala 15
Frisco City 22 Linden 20
Houston Academy 31 Gordo 21
Southern Choctaw 26 Laverne 13
Cottonwood 28 Lanett 7
Leroy 35 Calera 0
Pike County 45 Midfield 17
Oneonta 24 Montgomery Academy 10
T.R. Miller 31 Aliceville 28
Geneva 21 Tallahassee 14
UMS-Wright 35 Elmore County 13
Demopolis 29 Rehobeth 6
Thomasville 24 Cleburne County 21
Eufula 21 Benjamin Russell 14
Briarwood 35 B.C. Run 21
McAdory 17 St. Pauls 14
Homewood 35 Stanhope Elmore 7
Carver 20 Daphne 17
Davidson 35 Enterprise 17
Prattville 38 Theodore 21
Murphy 28 Opelika 27



JOHN WILLIAM MORROW, the 12-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. John Morrow Jr., caught this 10-pound bass while fishing recently in a private pond in the Mobile area. He is the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. John Morrow Sr., of Mobile, and the great grandson of the late Levy and Mary Morrow, of Elba.

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SPORTS

Fall to Southern Choctaw 33-12

Elba Tigers make early exit from playoffs

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor
Photos by Mike Capps and Laura Baxley

The Elba Tigers made an early exit from the Class 2A state football playoffs last week with a 33-12 loss to the top-ranked Southern Choctaw Indians, at the reservation in Gilberton.

The loss left the Tigers with a final record of 5-6, while the Indians upped their record to 11-0 with the win and advanced to the second round of post-season action.



Members of the Elba High "Senior Class of 2006" wore their school colors Friday night to support their classmates and the Tigers in the opening round of the state playoffs. Pictured are (l-r) Stephanie Baxley, Kendall Stinson, Whitney Lawford and Ashleigh Waddail.



Elba Tiger wide-receiver Frank Morris (30) pulls in a pass for a big gain in playoff action last week. The Tigers were ousted from the playoffs with their 33-12 loss to Southern Choctaw.



The Elba Marching Tigers made the long trip to Southern Choctaw last week and wowed the large playoff crowd with an outstanding halftime performance.

The Elba defense turned back Southern Choctaw on the opening possession of the game when Tiger tackle Dimetrio Tyson recovered an Indian fumble near midfield. However, the Indians regained possession at their 24-yardline following an Elba punt and this time marched 76 yards in only four plays to grab an early lead.

An 11-yard pass from Brandon McGhee to Robert Jones and a 15-yard run by John Pasceley helped the Indians move down the field, while the touchdown came on a 49-yard

pass from McGhee to Marty Frost. The extra-point try sailed low, but with 5:18 remaining in the first quarter Southern Choctaw was on top 6-0.

A squib kick on the ensuing kickoff bounced off an Elba player into the arms of an Indian defender, and the Indians took advantage of the turnover to quickly add to their lead. The scoring drive covered 51 yards in six plays, with the touchdown coming on a twisting 33-yard run up the middle by Shannon Dozier. A two-point pass attempt failed to produce points, and with 2:33 left in the first quarter Southern Choctaw's

Southern Choctaw threatened to add to its lead early in the second quarter and drove to a first down at the Elba 26-yardline, but the Tigers' Kikko Logan made a big hit on a key fourth down play and the Tigers made the stop inches short of the first down marker.

Elba's offense showed signs of life on its ensuing possession and moved to the Southern Choctaw 37-yardline after a 43-yard scamper by Brandon Kelley on a quarterback draw. A 3-yard gain by Kelley on fourth down and two moved the chains and gave the Tigers a first down at the 26.

However, the next three plays resulted in a loss of one yard, and on fourth down a pass failed to connect as the scoring threat died. Southern Choctaw was determined to add to its lead before the end of the half and did just that as the Indians drove 73 yards in 12 plays to score their third touchdown of the half. A 15-yard penalty against Elba helped the Indians overcome a third down and 27 early in the drive, while a 40-yard pass completion from Skylar Gibson to Terrell Johnson on second down and 17 moved the Indians to the Elba 30-yardline. Southern Choctaw moved to its first drive and goal at the Elba 3 on a 15-yard pass from Gibson to Dexter Williamson, and later scored with just 13-seconds left on the clock when Gibson rolled out and fired a strike to Williamson in the back of the endzone. Robert White kicked the extra-point and at the half the Indians went in with a solid 19-0 advantage.

Elba put the ball in play at its 43-yardline to open the second half after a 24-yard kickoff return by Jannerius Davis and stunned the Indians by driving 57 yards in six plays to get on the scoreboard. An 8-yard pass completion from Brandon Kelley to Mason Gulley on third down and six kept the drive alive early, while a 25-yard completion from Kelley to Frank Morris moved the Tigers to the Southern Choctaw 20-yardline. One play later Kelley dropped off a screen pass to Gulley in the flats and the speedy senior receiver outran the Indian defense 17 yards and dove into the endzone for a Tiger touchdown. The extra-point try sailed wide, but with 9:44 remaining in the third quarter Elba had cut the Indians lead to 19-6.

The teams swapped fumbles on the game's next two possessions, with Southern Choctaw putting the ball in play at its own 45-yardline after the Tiger turnover. A 41-yard run by Terrell Johnson and a 21-yard pass from Brandon McGhee to Marty Frost helped the Indians head downfield, while a 1-yard blast up the middle by John Pasceley put the Indians back in the endzone. White booted the extra-point and with 6:04 left in the third quarter Southern Choctaw was back in command with a 26-6 lead.

Elba's offense was now confident it could move the football

against the Indian defense and after the ensuing kickoff headed right back down the field. A 15-yard pass from Brandon Kelley to Kikko Logan and an 8-yard completion from Kelley to Stefaun Burks enabled the Tigers to move to a first down at midfield, and on the first down play the Tigers appeared to hit pay dirt as Kelley lofted a deep pass to Gulley along the side-lines. Gulley hauled in the pass in full stride and headed toward the goal line. However, the ball was jarred loose as he dove for the endzone and a Southern Choctaw defender pounced on the loose ball in the endzone as what appeared to be a Tiger touchdown turned into a touch-back.

Southern Choctaw regained possession at its own 20-yardline after the sudden change in momentum and set sails on a down play and the Tigers made the stop inches short of the first down marker. Brandon McGhee and John Pasceley combined to gain 33 yards on the drive's initial six plays as the Indians crossed midfield, while a key play in the long scoring drive came on third and 15, when Skylar Gibson connected with Mary Frost for a 28-yard completion down to the Elba 2-yardline. Two plays later Gibson dove over from a yard out, and White kicked the extra-point as Southern Choctaw's lead grew to 33-6 with 10:48 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Three of the game's next four offensive series ended in turnovers, with Elba's Chase W. Boutwell and Jordan McBride coming up with fumble recoveries. The second fumble recovery set Elba up at its own 44-yardline, and the Tigers took advantage of the excellent field position to drive 56 yards for the final score of the night. A 16-yard run by Kikko Logan sparked the drive early, while the fumble recovered on a yard pass from McBride to Kelley to Mason Gulley. A two-point pass fell incomplete, and when the game ended seconds later Southern Choctaw had the win over the Tigers 33-12.

Brandon Kelley ran for 24 yards on 11 carries and completed 13 of 18 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Elba offense, while Kikko Logan gained 23 yards on 10 carries and Mason Gulley caught 6 passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns. Chase E. Boutwell made 15 tackles to lead the Elba defense, while Trey Davis had 9 stops. Kikko Logan had 7 tackles, and Chase W. Boutwell had 6 tackles and a fumble recovery.

Shannon Dozier gained 80 yards and scored one touchdown on 15 carries to lead Southern Choctaw, while John Pasceley added 44 yards and one touchdown on seven carries and Brandon McGhee and Skylar Gibson combined to complete 13 of 16 passes for 239 yards.

STATISTICS

E	1st Downs	SC
12	Rushes-Yds.	20
23-61	Passing Yds.	37-202
172	Total Offense	239
233	13-18-1	441
13-18-1	Fumbles/Lost	5/4
4/2	Punts-Ave.	0-00
3-26	Penalties-Yds.	10-85
5-60		

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Elba Tiger linebacker Chase Boutwell (53) stops a Southern Choctaw runner for a loss in playoff action last week. Boutwell made 15 solo stops in the Tigers' playoff loss to the top-ranked Indians.



Elba Tiger running back Kikko Logan (2) follows teammate Chase Boutwell (74) downfield after pulling in a screen pass last week in the Tigers' 33-12 playoff loss to Southern Choctaw.



Elba Tiger running back Stefaun Burks (1) looks to make a block as teammate Kikko Logan (2) looks for running room. The Tigers closed out the season with a 5-6 record after last week's playoff loss to Southern Choctaw.

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SPORTS



Brantley Bulldog running back James Pittman (5) is off and running in last week's big 60-6 playoff win over J.U. Blacksher. Pittman gained 122 yards on just 5 carries in the opening round win.



Brantley Bulldog running back Jeffery Daniels (10) bulls over a Blacksher defender for a touchdown. The Bulldogs will host defending state champ Sweet Water Friday night in a 7 p.m. 1A showdown.



Brantley Bulldog Thad Frazier (6) finds nothing but green grass ahead as he returns an interception in last week's 60-6 playoff win over J.U. Blacksher. The win was the tenth straight for the Bulldogs.

Claim 10th straight win

Brantley Bulldogs bury Blacksher 60-6

Story and photos by Greg Branson

The Brantley Bulldogs raced out to a 47-0 halftime lead and never looked back Friday night as they opened the Class 1A state football playoffs with an

impressive 60-6 drubbing of the J.U. Blacksher Bulldogs.

Brantley scored on its first possession of the night as Chris Booker took an inside handoff and raced 40 yards to a touchdown. Marcus Owens booted the extra-point and with 10:37 remaining in the first quarter the hometown Bulldogs were already on top 7-0.

After an exchange of punts, Brantley went 59 yards in only two plays to add to its lead. James Pittman raced 57 yards to the Blacksher 2-yard line on the first play of the drive, while Chris Booker cracked over from there for his second touchdown of the quarter. Owens added the extra-point and with 3:56 left in the first quarter Brantley's lead was up to 14-0.

Brantley opened up its passing attack on its next possession and drove 58 yards in nine plays to add to its early advantage. Edgar Walker opened the drive with completions to Chris Booker for 25 yards and Thad Frazier for 14 yards, while the score came on a 9-yard Walker pass to Frazier. The extra-point failed, but it made little difference as Brantley's lead was up to 20-0 with 8:28 still left in the second quarter.

The Brantley defense came up big on its next trip to the field as Scotty Abdilla and Corey

Latham had big stops that knocked Blacksher back seven yards in three plays.

Edgar Walker connected with Shane Corley down the middle of the field moments later on a 49-yard touchdown toss, and Marcus Owens booted the extra-point as the hometown Dogs moved ahead 27-0 with 6:38 remaining in the quarter.

Tyler Weaver set up the next Brantley score with a fumble recovery at the 11. Blacksher 15-yardline, with the score coming on a 15-yard pass from Edgar Walker to Thad Frazier. Marcus Owens was true with the extra-point and with 6:20 left in the half Brantley was in complete command with a 34-0 lead.

The next Brantley touchdown came on a 2-yard run by Jeffery Daniels that capped a four play, 34-yard drive. The extra-point failed, but with 3:15 remaining in the half Brantley's lead was still growing as it stood at 40-0 over the outmatched visitors from Uiah.

Four plays later the Brantley special teams got in on the act when Chris Booker raced 71 yards on a punt return. Booker caught the kick, found a wall around the left side and raced untouched down the sidelines for the touchdown. Marcus Owens kicked the extra-point and as the teams left the field at halftime Brantley went in with a whopping 47-0 lead!

At halftime, members of the Brantley High School

Letterman's Foundation held a ceremony at midfield at which the group burned the note on a \$100,000 loan it had taken out in 2001 to construct new concrete bleachers on the home site of the stadium. President Willie Smith and Vice-President Charles Tompkins did the honors.

As the second half opened, J.U. Blacksher mounted an impressive drive and scored its only points of the game. Blacksher marched 70 yards in 14 plays and got on the scoreboard when Calvin Parker scored on a 2-yard run. The extra-point attempt was blocked and with 4:57 left in the third quarter Brantley's lead stood at 47-6.

Brantley fired right back on its initial possession of the second half with a two-play, 43-yard drive. James Pittman scored the touchdown on a 43-yard sprint around the left end, and while the extra-point failed, Brantley owned a 53-6 advantage with 3:56 remaining in the third quarter.

Thad Frazier came up big again on the game's next offensive series as he picked off a Blacksher pass and returned the interception 39 yards to the midfield stripe. The Brantley reserves got in on the fun after the turnover and drove 51 yards in only four plays to get into the endzone. Terrell Burnett scored the touchdown on a 25-yard run up the middle, and Landon Morgan kicked the extra-point.

STATISTICS

BR		JB
16	1st Downs	11
26-280	Rushes-Yds.	47-149
143	Passing Yds.	19
423	Total Offense	168
10-13-0	Passes	2-17-3
230	Return Yds.	121
1	Fumbles Lost	1
5-40	Penalties-Yds.	3-15
2-39	Punts-Ave.	7-35

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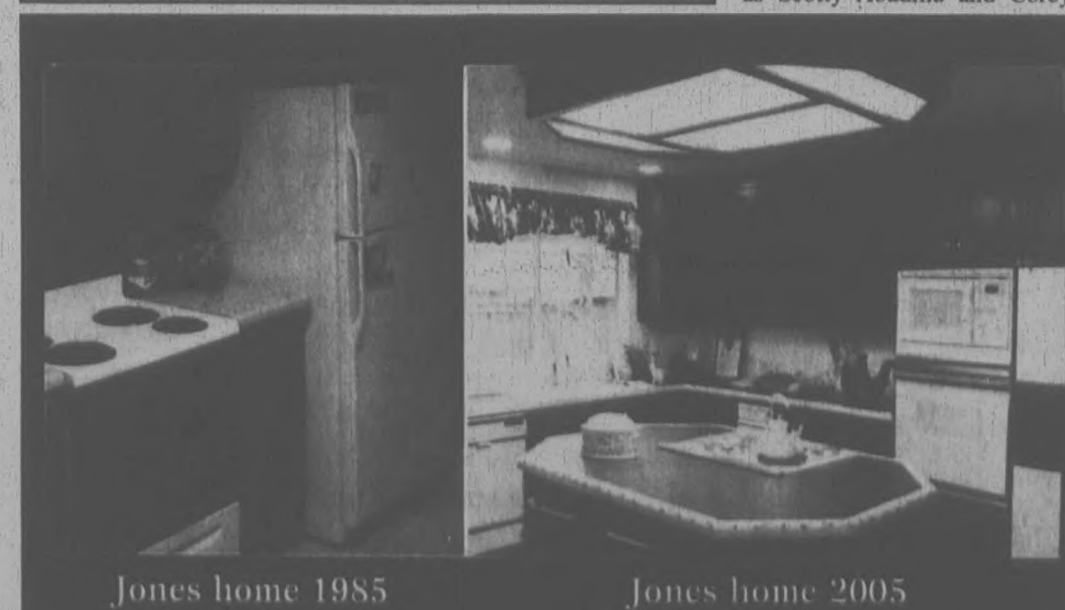
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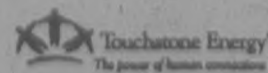


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SPORTS



REBEL SPIRIT LINE.... Zion Chapel Rebel supporters formed a spirit line on the field prior to last week's playoff game against Millry. A large Zion Chapel crowd made the three hour ride to support the Rebels.



REBEL DEFENSE.... The front wall of the Zion Chapel defense closes in during action last week in the Rebels' 39-31 playoff loss to Millry. The Rebels ended the season with a 6-5 record and made the playoffs for the second straight season.

Zion Chapel falls in opening round

Rebel rally falls short in 39-31 playoff loss

Statistics and photos by Harry White

The Zion Chapel Rebels saw a gallant second half rally fall one touchdown short Friday night as they were defeated by the Millry Wildcats 39-31, in the opening round of the Class 1A state football playoffs.

The loss left the Rebels with a final record of 6-5, while the Wildcats improved their record to 8-3 with the win and advanced into second round action.

Zion Chapel received the opening kickoff and showed the Wildcats it had come to play as the Rebels marched 65 yards in 10 running plays to grab the early lead. Hunter Wise gained 50 yards on six carries to lead the Rebels downfield, while the touchdown came on a 1-yard plunge by Abe Childs. Logan Carley booted the extra-point and with 7:14 remaining in the first quarter Zion Chapel owned a quick 7-0 advantage.

Millry had also come to play and answered the early Zion Chapel touchdown with a score of its own as the Wildcats needed only two plays to cover 67 yards for their first score of the night. The touchdown came on a 54-yard dash by Marquis Reasor, and Reasor also booted the extra-point as Millry pulled even at 7-7 with 6:43 left in the quarter.

Millry began its next possession at its own 25-yardline following a Zion Chapel punt and this time marched 75 yards in five plays to take the lead. Marquis Reasor gained 21 yards on two carries to spark the long scoring drive, while the touchdown came on a 15-yard pass from Jared Carter to Chad Johnson. The extra-point try failed, but with 11:00 remaining in the second quarter the Wildcats had taken the lead 13-7.

Zion Chapel began another march toward the Wildcat endzone on its ensuing possession

as the Rebels rode the running of Hunter Wise and Joey Jones to reach a first down at the Millry 12-yardline. Two fumbles and a penalty stalled the Rebel march, however, and Zion Chapel turned the ball over on downs back at the Millry 29.

Millry faced a second down and 20 after one play and a Wildcat penalty, but the Cats easily overcame their early problems and covered the 81 yards to the endzone in only five plays to add to their lead. A 48-yard run by Jason Linder was a key play in the long scoring drive, while the touchdown came on a 4-yard dash by Chad Johnson. A two-point try failed to reach the goal line, and with 4:16 remaining in the half the Wildcats came back up field with a 19-7 advantage.

Edgar Walker gave the ball right-back to the Wildcats on the ensuing kickoff with a fumble, and the Cats quickly cashed in on the Rebel turnover as on their first snap Marquis Reasor took a pitch-out and raced 38 yards for a score. The extra-point again failed, but with 4:03 remaining in the half Millry had blown the game open and owned a 25-7 lead.

Millry received the second half kickoff and continued its offensive surge by driving 66 yards in only three plays to add to its advantage. The Wildcat touchdown came on a 60-yard pass from Jared Carter to Josh Linder, and Marquis Reasor kicked the extra-point as the Wildcats' lead grew to 32-7 with 10:02 remaining in the third quarter.

Zion Chapel began its ensuing possession at its own 45-yardline and marched 55 yards in five plays to cut into the Wildcat lead. Kelsey Roberts gained 29 yards on two carries to lead the Rebels downfield, while Hunter Wise scored the touchdown on a 15-yard dash. Abe Childs ran in the two-point conversion and with 7:57 left in the third quarter the Rebels had

cut the deficit to 32-15.

Zion Chapel regained possession at its own 20-yardline on a pass interception by Abe Childs, and the Rebels responded by marching 80 yards in four plays to get back into the endzone. An 18-yard pass from Abe Childs to Joey Jones got the drive off to a fast start, while the touchdown came on a 43-yard scamper by Kelsey Roberts. Josh Nelson passed to Luke Peters for the two-point conversion, and with 2:56 remaining in the quarter Zion Chapel was back in the game as it had cut the Wildcat lead to 32-23.

Millry began its next possession at its own 41-yardline and regained command as the Wildcats drove 59 yards in five plays to stretch its lead. The score came on a 30-yard run by

Marquis Reasor, and Reasor added the extra-point as Millry's lead grew to 39-23 with :25 still left in a wild third quarter.

Zion Chapel put the ball in play at its own 45-yardline following the ensuing kickoff and continued to light up the scoreboard as the Rebels needed 11 plays to cover the 55 yards into the endzone. An 18-yard pass from Abe Childs to Joey Jones ignited the scoring march, while Hunter Wise gained 27 yards on four carries and Abe Childs scored the touchdown on a one-yard sneak. Childs added the two-point conversion and with 7:47 left on the clock the Rebels were within 39-31.

Zion Chapel got the ball right back on a Wildcat fumble near midfield and quickly moved into Millry territory, but a penal-

ty slowed the march and the Rebels turned the ball over on downs.

The Rebels got the ball back at their own 5-yardline with 2:15 remaining on the clock and kept their hopes alive as they moved across midfield. Joey Jones gained 34 yards on two carries to help lead the Rebels down the field. However, four straight passes fell to the ground incomplete after the Rebels moved across midfield and Millry ran out the clock as the Wildcats escaped with the 39-31 win.

Kelsey Roberts gained 136 yards on 13 carries and scored 1 touchdown to lead the Zion Chapel running attack, while Hunter Wise gained 136 yards on 19 carries and also scored one touchdown. Abe Childs

gained 24 yards on 12 carries and scored 2 touchdowns, and also completed 2 of 12 passes for 36 yards, with Joey Jones pulling in both receptions.

Marquis Reasor gained 158 yards on 14 carries and scored 3 touchdowns to lead Millry, while Jason Linder added 97 yards on 9 carries and Jared Carter completed 5 of 7 passes for 108 yards and 2 scores.

STATISTICS

ZC		M
21	1st Downs	15
52-331	Rushes-Yds.	30-299
36	Passing Yds.	108
367	Total Offense	407
2-12-0	Passes	5-7-1
4/1	Fumbles/Lost	1/1
8-50	Penalties-Yds.	11-81

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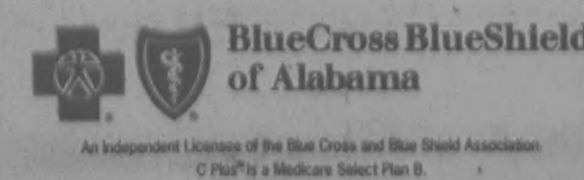


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Class of 1995 members attending the Saturday evening barbecue included: (seated, l to r) Carrie Bradley, Shea Ward Barnett, Penny Morrow Walker, Angie Daniels Slagel and Heather Lawford Strickland; (middle row, l to r) Amanda Pope, Dusty Smith, Amy Sasser Martin, Jessica York Wyroslick, Tanya Walker Smith, Malisa Sorrells Morgan, Tiffany Burk, Jill Windham Dunn, Catheryn Carpenter, Mary Stephens Ramsey and Missy McDaniel; (back row, l to r) Chad Adkinson, Kevin Lawford, Chris Hudson, Bo Boyd, Che Vaughan, Jonathan Rost, Ramey Bryan, Trey Lawless and Charlie Driggers.

Elba High Class of 1995 holds 10-year reunion

The Elba High School Class of 1995 held its 10 year class reunion the weekend of homecoming, Oct. 14-15. The weekend was filled with lots of fun starting with the parade on Friday afternoon. A reception was held before the football game at the Elba High School where the classmates could bring the family to meet

and greet and reconnect.

Saturday morning the ladies gathered at the home of Clay and Amy Martin for a brunch and more time to catch up. The weekend ended with a bar-b-qe dinner at The Smith Family Barn.

The weekend was filled with lots of memories, good times, and great food. A huge thanks to so many for helping make the weekend a success.

Ms. Kaci Lyan Grantham, of Elba, was crowned 2005-2006 Ms. LBWCC-MacArthur at the third annual pageant on November 3, 2005 in the MacArthur Campus Conference Center. Judging included poise and appearance, a judge's interview, and answering a final

Troy on line Masters program wins national award

GetEducated.com, LLC has named Troy University among its Top 25 most affordable online master's degree providers.

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"Troy's eCampus is a national leader in distance learning and this ranking validates our mission to provide quality education at a reasonable price to an ever-changing, non-traditional market," said Dr. Susan Aldridge, vice chancellor of University College and eCampus.

At an age when college costs are skyrocketing, you should be proud of your program's success at making higher education more accessible to working adults," said Vicky Phillips, founder and CEO of GetEducated.com, LLC.

THE ELBA CLIPPER • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2005



Pictured left to right are: Ali Taunton - second alternate, Kaci Grantham - Ms. LBWCC-MacArthur, and Misty Lanier - first alternate.

Kaci Grantham crowned MacArthur pageant winner

Ms. Kaci Lyan Grantham, of Elba, was crowned 2005-2006 Ms. LBWCC-MacArthur at the third annual pageant on November 3, 2005 in the MacArthur Campus Conference Center. Judging included poise and appearance, a judge's interview, and answering a final

question on stage. By being crowned Ms. LBWCC-MacArthur, Ms. Kaci Grantham, a cosmetology student, received a 12 credit hour scholarship for Spring semester and will represent LBW Community College at various college and community events.

Important Information from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

Attention Alabamians with Medicare

If you or someone you love currently has Medicare coverage, please take a moment to read the information below.

With the new Medicare Drug Plans beginning January 1, 2006, you are going to read and hear a lot about the different drug plans that will be offered over the coming months. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know that **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama will not be offering a separate Medicare Drug Plan.**

If you currently have **C PlusSM with PMD**, you can keep it. If you want to buy Medicare Drug coverage, you can choose from any one of the sixteen different companies offering plans in Alabama. You can enroll from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. You will need to decide which plan best fits your needs. More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available through the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook from Medicare or from the following:

- Visit www.medicare.gov for personalized help
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you are interested in **C PlusSM with PMD** and would like to enroll, please call 1-800-315-7900. Carefully review and compare the different Medicare Drug Plans before you decide which plan is best for you.

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The Elba Clipper

Volume 109, Number 23

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, November 17, 2005

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

During Elba City Council meeting

Alcohol license approved for Mulberry Community Grocery

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council smoothly handled several items of business which in times past have stirred the council itself or concerned citizens into heated debates.

An alcohol license was unanimously approved for Mulberry Community Grocery, allowing the community store to sell both beer and wine for off premises use. The business is located on Martin Luther King Drive. The application had been tabled for several months to allow the owners, Michael Lindsey and Denise Burks, time to comply with all state and local regulations.

The council accepted the recommendations of Mayor James Grimes and appointed Junior Culver to the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Donald Lawford to the Elba Housing Authority. Each of these appointments of a new board member was due to an incumbent asking to not be reappointed for an additional term.

Mayor Grimes reviewed the financial statement, which represents a full 12 months of (unaudited) operations. He noted that revenue of \$3,076,224 fell \$68,276 short of projections. This was caused by drops in business licenses, property tax, gasoline tax, police fines, garbage and sewer fees. The largest single drop in income could be considered a positive - transfers from the Water and Electric Board were \$45,000 below budget estimates.

Revenue sources which were above budget predictions included "other police revenue" (grants, etc.), sales tax, alcohol tax, automobile tax, financial institution tax, and grant funds.

Expenditures were also above budget projections, in fact every department showed spending in excess of budget. Grimes noted some of the expense was the extra \$80,000 for sewer improvements on Claxton Avenue and Larkin Road; \$80,000 in unbudgeted, but required, street repairs; \$43,000 of interest on a sewer loan and payoff of all loans at the bank; and the purchase of some needed, but unexpected, fire department equipment.

Monthly bills totaling \$143,521.31 were approved for payment.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham

reported that demolition at the old school is underway and the area is still considered dangerous. He also reported that the new garbage pick-up truck should be delivered and ready for the City of Elba to begin picking up garbage by the January 1st, 2006 target date.

Grantham also reminded those present of the new requirement that all trash, (leaves and limbs, appliances, electronics, and "other"), be separated by the user.

Grimes reported that the city's

Following Nov. 8th bankruptcy hearing Reports indicate Dorsey Trailer case possibly nearing an end

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Elba Mayor James Grimes reports that recent activity in the U. S. Bankruptcy Court indicates a possible end to the Dorsey Trailer case by shortly after the first of the year.

Grimes said that at the November 8th bankruptcy hearing in Montgomery the main parties verbally agreed to a settlement which includes the court approved sale of the assets to the Colorado company which had presented the high bid at the

previous court hearing. Sale of any existing inventory will be sold in a separate action and apparently to another purchaser.

Following the court hearing the company will examine the plan to ensure "what they are buying is what they are getting," a routine action in these cases.

The mayor added that the prospective buyers have indicated they plan to restart the building of over-the-road trailers in the now closed plant.



The reigning Miss Elba queens represented the city last Saturday, Nov. 12, at the annual National Peanut Festival parade in Dothan. The young ladies had to get up early for the parade but reportedly had a great time riding the float and serving as ambassadors for the City of Elba. The local queens are (from top to bottom): Miss Elba Kendall Stinson, Junior Miss Elba Christina Bryant, Little Miss Elba Caitlin Bradshaw and Future Little Miss Elba Brayton Martin.

Elba BOE approves textbook committees

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board members closely examined the two new school buses recently

delivered to the system. The "transit style" BlueBird buses cost \$61,995 each. They are paid for from the transportation allowance furnished by the state department of education. The system paid \$100,000 on the buses and the balance will paid in payments.

Textbook committees for both the high school and elementary school were recommended by Superintendent Danny Weeks and approved by the board. Amelia Rhoades is serving on both committees. Serving from the high school are Harold Rogers, Brian Weeks, Mandy Collins, David Collins and Karl Bledsoe. Representing the elementary school are Gina Price, Tracie Johnson and Renee Stinson.

This committee will review new books, which are already approved at the state level, before the local system elects to begin using them.

The board accepted the retirement of Frank Phillips, coach and physical education teacher at Elba Elementary School. He will be "hard to replace," said

Please See BOE, Page 14



The State Diagnostic Lab in Elba is now operating from its all new facility. The site of the former building is being leveled in the picture above in preparation to pave the parking lot. Many bypassers were shocked to see the old facility there on one day and completely gone a couple of days later. Lab Director Joel Kline said the staff was still working to get offices and exam rooms in working order, but were making progress while maintaining their regular work schedule.

Coffee County Probate Judge asks commission to support local bid regarding poll worker pay

by Linda Hodge, Editor

For a slight moment, it looked as though Coffee County Commissioners would vote Monday, Nov. 14, on a motion to approve an architect for the Zion Chapel Senior Citizen Center project; however, verbalized opposition towards the proposed architectural firm led to the motion being withdrawn

from the floor.

Commissioner Linda Westbrook offered a motion to proceed with the senior center project by approving Waid and Parrish Architecture Inc. of Dothan for the project. She received a second from Commissioner Robert Stephens.

Once opened for discussion, Westbrook realized there was more opposition to the firm than

she previously realized.

Commissioner Tom Grimsley said the commission has had problems with the architectural firm through the Mount Pleasant and Ino senior center projects, and he can not see using the company again because of those troubles.

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During commission meeting

Chairman Brooks reveals his platform

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Commissioner Bernest Brooks took the seat as chairman Monday, Nov. 14, as Coffee County Commissioners held their regular bimonthly meeting.

After moving through the day's agenda, Brooks took the floor to publicly announce his platform for Fiscal Year 2006 while he serves as chairman.

"I would like to thank the Coffee County Commission and all individuals who participated in my election to chairman of the Coffee County Commission," Brooks said. "My goal was to be elected by the people to serve Commission District Five and the county as chairman. I will do all I can to serve all the people of Coffee County to the very best of my ability."

Brooks said he is a retired senior citizen of Coffee County who has worked tirelessly to

help improve the standard of living for all of the citizens of Coffee County, the region and the State of Alabama. He said his credentials span 52 years of public service - 20 years in the public school system, two years of work on federal programs, 18 years of state governmental service and 12 years of county government service.

"My mission during my terms as county commissioner and throughout life has been one of service to the people," said Brooks. "I have been and am an advocate for the under served in our community."

As chairman, Brooks outlined five major issues he will work towards achieving over the next year.

First and foremost, he said he will continue to work to establish a local public transportation system to serve the citizens of

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Annual Christmas Festival set for Saturday, Nov. 26, in Elba

For the past seventeen years, artists and vendors from across the area have set up camp in downtown Elba the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They are returning this year for another year to provide the sights, sounds and smells that make up the Elba Christmas Festival.

The festival starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, with an assortment of entertainment on the main stage in front of the Coffee County Courthouse in downtown Elba. There will be concessions, arts & crafts vendors and activities for the children.

A new feature this year will be the live reindeer attraction.

This will attract citizens of all ages to the festival who hope to get a look at Santa's beautiful creatures. "An opportunity to have a photograph made with the reindeer will be available."

"We have a special treat coming with the reindeer," said Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce. "They will be on the square all day and in the parade. I have tried to get the reindeer to come to the Christmas Festival for several years and thanks to

those businesses that have agreed to sponsor them, this year, we finally have been able to do that."

More than 50 vendors from across the area will showcase their work during the festival. Along with past familiar favorites, many new and exciting vendors will display their work.

In addition to being attractive to visitors, the festival is also a welcome sight for many downtown business owners. With the festival comes increased visibility and commerce for downtown businesses, according to store owner Al Baxter.

"Most businesses on the square enjoy increased traffic throughout the day," he said. "Later in the afternoon will be the annual Christmas Parade. The parade is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. following the festival. In the case of rain, the parade will be held on the following Monday at 5:30 p.m."

The 2005 Festival is sponsored by the Elba Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Kaye Whitworth or Eva Medlock at the chamber by calling 334-897-3125.

Coffee County Schools

Menu

November 14-18, 2005

BREAKFAST

Monday - Sausage Biscuit, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Tuesday - French Toast Sticks, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Cheese Grits, Toast, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Pop Tart, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Friday - Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Bar-B-Q Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Canned Mandarin Oranges, Milk
Tuesday - Sausage Pizza, Grilled Chicken/ Bun, Potato Rounds, English Peas, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Wednesday - Hot Dog, Fish Sandwich, Oven Baked Fries, Cole Slaw, Canned Applesauce, Milk
Thursday - Turkey Dressing w/ Cranberry Sauce, Baked Ham, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Yams, Rolls, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Milk
Friday - Burrito, Fish Nuggets, Battered Beans, Whole Kernel Corn, Hushpuppies, Brownie, Canned Peaches, Milk